

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 13, 2002 has been received and duly noted. The Examiner has rejected the pending claims as being anticipated in view of U.S. Patent 4,366,971 to Lula, or is being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,509,766 to Yoshida, et al., or as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,883,292 to Kuroki. The claims have been amended to further distinguish the invention from the prior art, and Applicant submits that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references.

Independent Claims 24 and 28 have each been amended to clearly recite that the end of the lining is secured to the ring at a second annular securing locus which is axially spaced from both the first annular securing locus and the first ring end surface. This structure distinguishes these claims from each of the cited references, which do not teach or suggest the claimed method or workpiece, including securing the end of the lining to a ring member at a second annular securing locus axially spaced from both the first annular securing locus and the first ring end surface.

Dependent Claims 54 and 56 recite that the second annular securing locus is spaced between the first annular securing locus and the first end surface on the ring, and thus read on the embodiments as shown in Figures 22 and 24, while dependent Claims 55 and 57 read on the embodiment as shown on Figure 23.

Applicant would point out that claims have been amended primarily in view of U.S. Patent 4,883,292. Applicant submits that the previously presented claims were not anticipated by either U.S. Patent 4,366,971 or U.S. Patent 4,509,766, since neither of these references disclose a "first ring" as that term is used in the pending claims. Applicant's claims are directed to a combination which includes a ring which is secured to the end of a metal tube, and this term is not intended to read on an annular bead of weld material (weld build up) on the metal tube.

In view of the above, early allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS:

24. A workpiece for use in making a corrosion-resistant, threaded tubular member, comprising:

an outer metal tube of corrosion-prone material having a first end, a second end, and an inner surface, a first ring of corrosion-resistant material secured to said first end of said metal tube and having a first ring end surface axially spaced from said metal tube, a first annular securing locus formed between said first ring and said first end of said metal tube, an inner metal tubular lining of corrosion-resistant material disposed in said outer tube, said metal lining having a first end, a second end, and an outer surface, said outer surface of said lining overlying said inner surface of said tube [and said first annular securing locus], said first end of said lining being secured to said first ring at a second annular securing locus axially spaced from both said first annular securing locus and said first ring end surface.

28. A method of forming a workpiece for sue in making a corrosion-resistant, threaded tubular member, comprising:

providing a metal tube of corrosion-prone material, said metal tube having a first end and a second end;

securing said first end of said metal tube to a first ring of corrosion-resistant material by permanently bonding said first ring to said first end of said metal tube to form a first annular securing locus between said first ring and said first end of said tube, said first ring having a first ring end surface axially spaced from the metal tube;

providing a metal tubular liner of corrosion-resistant material, said liner having a first end and a second end;

disposing said liner in said tube, said liner overlying said first annular securing locus and being secured to said first ring at a second annular securing locus axially spaced from both said first annular securing locus and said first ring end surface.

29. The method of Claim 28 wherein said securing of said first ring to said first end of said metal tube is accomplished by welding.


31. The method of Claim 30 wherein said metal tubular liner is secured to said metal tube.

34. The method of Claim 28, further comprising:
securing to said second end of said metal tube a second ring of corrosion-resistant material by permanently bonding said second ring to said second end of said metal tube to form [a second] another annular securing locus between said second ring and said first end, said liner overlying said [second] another annular securing locus and being secured to said second ring.

37. The method Claim 34 wherein said second ring has a second end surface distal said [second] another annular securing locus [and said second end of said liner extends to said second end surface of said second ring], said second end of said liner being welded to said second ring [at said second end surface].

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence and all referenced enclosure(s) are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on August 14, 2002.

By: _____
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